

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 EA-06 SSO-00 SS-15 PM-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00

DPW-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4755

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 1453

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PA

SUBJECT: PARAGUAYAN REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S FOREIGN
POLICY ADDRESS

REF: STATE 82689

1. GOP IS DEEPLY DISTURBED BY EVENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND FEARFUL OVER POSSIBLE DECLINE OF US INFLUENCE WORLDWIDE AND PARTICULARLY IN LATIN AMERICA. RESOLUTION PASSED BY CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES APRIL 10 AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY BOTH COLORADOS AND OPPOSITION CON-DEMNING COMMUNIST AGGRESSION SYMBOLIZED THIS VIEW.

2. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO FORMAL GOP REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, I HAVE BEEN TOLD BY SEVERAL CABINET-LEVEL OFFICIALS THAT THE GOP IS WORRIED ABOUT THE SCHISMBETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF USG OVER FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS. FONMIN AND OTHERS ARE FULLY AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT GOP HAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO CONTINUE TO PLACE THEIR TRUST IN US WHICH GOP SEES AS THE ULTIMATE DEFENDER OF THE FREE WORLD.

3. FURTHER EVIDENCE IS ADVANCE TEXT GIVEN ME TODAY
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BY PARAGUAY'S LEADING POLITICAL COMMENTATOR SALUM

GLECHA OF EDITORIAL TO APPEAR SHORTLY IN GOVERNMENT
PARTY NEWSPAPER COLORADO, ENTITLED QTE IT'S UP TO
CONGRESS NOW, UNQTE ARTICLE DEPLORES INDEPENDENT
POLICY-MAKING EXCURSIONS BY CONGRESS, STRONGLY
SUPPORTS PRESIDENT'S POSITION, AND CONCLUDES WITH
HOPE THAT QTE CONGRESS WILL ARRIVE AT A COMPROMISE
WITH THE AMERICAN EXECUTIVE IN THE INTEREST OF
WESTERN AND FREE WORLD SOLIDARITY. UNQTE
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